

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, because of the recent objection it is very important that we take up the prohibition against Federal funds being used for assisted suicides this week, and therefore I would announce that there is going to be a special emergency meeting of the Committee on Rules this afternoon at 5 o'clock and would urge Committee on Rules members to attend, and I will be attempting to contact the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], the ranking minority member, to pass along this information.

THE 21ST CENTURY PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 400, which will effectively end the practice of submarine patenting. A patent submariner resorts to dilatory tactics that inhibit the ability of the Patent and Trademark Office to review the application in an expedited manner.

Submariners do not invest in the economy, nor do they hire workers and they do not invent anything. They sue innocent third parties who independently develop technology, invest in the economy and do in fact hire workers.

How do we stop submariners and still guarantee 17 years of term? H.R. 400 requires an 18-month publication. The innocent third party will be served with notice that a patent is pending and be able to move on to another invention. The rights of the patent applicant are in no way compromised, since he would receive protection at the time of publication, which means longer protection than inventors currently receive.

Mr. Speaker, good patent policy concerns itself with more than the rights of the inventor. H.R. 400 improves our existing system by protecting the interests of all. I urge support of H.R. 400.

AN IMPORTANT ALLIANCE ON AN ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN: HEALTH CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week a remarkable thing happened. Two senior Members of the other body, representing the States of Massachusetts and Utah, forged an important al-

liance on an issue of great concern to the American people, health care for our children.

What makes this partnership so remarkable is not simply that these two Members represent different regions and different political parties, but that one is a respected leading liberal and the other is a respected leading conservative. And yet both men discovered something more important than regional differences, more important than partisanship and more important than political ideology.

They understand that a nation as wealthy and powerful as ours simply cannot allow 10 million of its children to go without basic health care. So they came together and they are leading an effort to do what is right for our children.

I am inspired by the bipartisan cooperation that led to the Kennedy-Hatch health care bill, and I have renewed hope that this body, the U.S. House of Representatives, can come together in a bipartisan way to guarantee that every child in America has the health coverage they need and deserve, and, Mr. Speaker, let us do it today.

ARIZONA WILDCATS BASKETBALL TEAM, 1997 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. KOLBE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I feel a little bit like a proud parent today as I rise to congratulate Coach Lute Olsen and the University of Arizona Wildcats on winning the NCAA national basketball championship.

This marvelous achievement really was unprecedented. Never before has a collegiate basketball team defeated three No. 1 seeds in an NCAA tournament, in fact the three most successful basketball programs in the country. Pundits said it was impossible. To be victorious Arizona had to find a way to win six games in a row, something this team had not done all season. In fact, during the regular season the Wildcats lost nearly as many games as Kansas, North Carolina, and Kentucky combined. But throughout the season the Arizona Wildcats exhibited a strength of character that was truly inspiring. They prove that a good team can benefit as much, if not more, from losing as from winning.

As Mike Bibby, Arizona sensational freshman point guard, told reporters, "I like playing against All Americans because it helps me learn," or as forward Michael Dickerson said, "We don't feel we're anybody's underdogs. We have players who can match up with anybody. We did it by believing in each other."

Indeed, at one point during the tournament Mike Bibby found himself at the free throw stripe with the game on the line. Yet after making the shots that sealed the victory, Bibby was quick to credit his teammate and

freshman reserve Josh Pastner with helping him perfect his free throwing technique. Bibby wanted the world to know that although Josh Pastner did not log a minute of playing time during the tournament, the Arizona Wildcats could not have won the championship without him.

So congratulations, University of Arizona. Go, Wildcats.

HONORING CORRECTIONS OFFICER SCOTT WILLIAMS

(Mr. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Corrections Officer Scott Williams who was killed in the line of duty last Thursday at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lompoc, CA.

Courage was nothing new to Scott Williams. During his tenure at Lompoc, he was promoted from officer to senior officer specialist. A former Marine of the Year, he served with distinction and saved lives in Desert Storm. Officer Williams received no fewer than six awards for outstanding service. He was also a beloved family man who is survived by his wife Kristy and their two young daughters, Kallee and Kaitlin. His selfless dedication is a lesson to us all.

Today we also pay tribute to injured Corrections Officer Scot Elliot and Warden Dave Rardin and all those who came to the aid of a fellow officer.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the entire House when I extend my condolences to the family and friends of this brave fallen soldier.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE TOASTS THE TYRANTS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the character of the Clinton administration was on display for the entire world to see when Vice President GORE recently clinked champagne glasses with Li Peng, the mastermind of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Fortunately, the tough and thoughtful comments made by the Speaker of this House served as a welcome contrast.

The Vice President cited that relationship between two great nations and civilizations in his tribute to the Communist dictatorship in Beijing. Well, he was half right. The United States of America is indeed a great Nation, but then our Government does not imprison priests and monks and other religious people. Our Government does not force women to have abortions against their will or sanction torture or throw in jail those who express opinions that do not reflect the official government line.

Mr. Speaker, the Vice President's remarks sent the wrong message to China, but as the Cincinnati Post editorialized last week, it was refreshing

to see the Speaker actually say face to face to the Chinese what is frequently discussed in the United States: Human rights do matter, and the truth needs to be told.

JOBS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES; ROTTEN ILLEGAL BERRIES FOR AMERICA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, schoolchildren in Michigan got sick eating strawberries that were tainted with the hepatitis A virus. Now if that is not enough to sour your shortcake, check this out.

The strawberries were illegally imported from Mexico and sold to the school lunch program in violation of buy America laws. Unbelievable, huh? It never stops, and no one seems to care. Military boots from China, cars from Japan, beef from Australia, telephones from Singapore.

Mr. Speaker, it is all called the New World order, and here is how it works: Jobs for China, jobs for Australia, jobs for Japan, jobs for Mexico, and berries for America, rotten, illegal berries for America.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is time to put a few straw bosses in jail and mandate country of origin labels on all food products.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any further disease.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would admonish the members of the gallery to please refrain from any showing of spontaneous response to any of the speeches.

COMPROMISING NATIONAL SECURITY FOR POLITICAL GAIN

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the audience. I am outraged though.

Today, every day, it is a new story about this President using taxpayer dollars, using the White House and now using classified national security information to raise money for his own reelection campaign. Today's Washington Post reveals that the White House actually gave top secret information to the Democrat National Committee.

When I was in the military, if someone failed to safeguard classified information, they were relieved from duty and court-martialed. Maybe it is time to relieve this President from his duties and court-martial him.

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The White House has put the lives of CIA officers in jeopardy and endan-

gered every American by compromising our national security for Clinton's own political gain. America wants, needs, and deserves to have a leader who protects this Nation instead of exploiting it.

POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ACT AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF COM- MUNITY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for many the Postal Service indeed represents the Federal Government. Post offices are the heart and soul of many small towns across America, and they are part of the heritage of every community. Yet, in many instances, people feel victimized by the Postal Service because the post office sometimes ignores local zoning laws and building codes in making decisions about their facilities.

Additionally, citizens often feel shut out of the decision-making process, despite the massive impacts that post office closings and relocations have on our communities.

Today I am introducing legislation to change this. My bill would outline minimum citizen involvement requirements that would apply to the renovation, relocation, closing, or consolidation of post offices and require the post office to comply with any local zoning or building codes which the State and local governments themselves must comply with.

My bill is fair and does not place unnecessary burdens on the Postal Service. Instead, for the first time, the Postal Service would be treated as a responsible member of the community and not be above the local laws.

TAX RELIEF FOR AVERAGE CITIZENS

(Mr. HUTCHINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, while I was home in Arkansas I often asked my constituents, "Any message for Washington?" One of the most common responses I received is "Yes, cut my taxes." I have heard this response so many times that I can assure my colleagues this: I got the message.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the special interests and the powerful lobbying groups have their tax loopholes. We all know that upper income people have the means to employ tax attorneys and accountants at tax time. But what about the forgotten little guy, the ordinary taxpayer who works for a living? What about giving the little guy a break for a change?

Mr. Speaker, it is the little guy who is at the mercy of a Federal tax system that somehow manages to increase the tax burden year after year after year.

The liberal press is always asking, "Can we afford a tax cut?" I want to know the last time anyone asked, "Can the little guy afford a tax increase?"

Mr. Speaker, the truth is, he cannot. I think it is high time somebody in Washington started looking after the little guy. We need tax relief now.

OPPORTUNITIES TO BOLSTER OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

(Mr. REYES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to talk about veterans along the border and opportunities that we have to bolster our commitment to our veterans.

This is the 105th Congress's first piece of veterans' legislation, and I am here to rise in support of this bill, because in this era of downsizing, it provides increased job opportunities and security. Let us send a strong message to our veterans by overwhelmingly passing this bill.

Furthermore, while back in the district, I invited local veterans to participate in my veterans' advisory panel, a panel that will meet regularly to advise me on ways to improve the lives of our veterans. I am proud to say that we have an overwhelming response. Already, they have expressed their concerns about our Persian Gulf war veterans and the need for continued research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to seek similar ways to stay informed, and with tomorrow's vote, take a first step in this Congress for our veterans.

INCREASING TAXES WILL NOT HELP OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years tax-and-spend liberals have come to Washington, DC and run up a \$5.6 trillion debt that is going to be passed on to our children. For 40 years, tax-and-spend liberals have increased taxes to a point that the average American is now paying 50.2 percent of every dollar they make to Washington and State levels, and yet these same tax-and-spend liberals come up talking about how they want to help children. But guess what? The way they want to help children is to increase taxes. The way they say we help children is increase spending through another Federal bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to help children, we have got to make sure that taxes are reduced and Federal spending is reduced, because a bipartisan commission headed by Senator KERREY projected a few years ago that my boys are going to be paying 89 percent of every dollar they make in 30